IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated, synthetic or recombinant ρ-conotoxin peptide having selective α_1-adrenoceptor antagonist activity whereby the ability of said peptide to inhibit the action of nor-adrenaline at an α_1–adrenoceptor is greater than its ability to inhibit the action of nor-adrenaline at other α-adrenoceptors.

2. (Currently amended) A ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 having ~~the sequence: FNWRCCLIPACRRNHKKFC SEQ ID NO. 1~~ the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 (FNWRCCLIPACRRNHKKFC), ~~or such a sequence which has undergone one or more amino acid deletions, additions, substitutions or side chain modifications.~~ or a sequence that differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by having at least one amino acid deletion, addition, substitution or side chain modification.

3. (Original) A ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 2 which is ρ-TIA.

4. (Currently amended) A ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 having no or negligible activity at the neuronal or muscle subtype of nicotinic ~~ACh receptor.~~ acethylcholine receptor.

5. (Currently Amended) A ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 having ~~selectivity for one α_1 subtype over other subtypes~~ selective activity for one α_1–adrenoceptor subtype over other subtypes of α_1–adrenoceptors.

6. (Original) A ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 having four cysteine residues and two disulphide bonds.

7. (Currently amended) A ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 6 wherein the disulphide bond connectivity is A-C/B-D, where A, B, C and D refer to the first, second, third and fourth cysteine ~~residues respectively.~~ residue, respectively.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of testing the activity of a molecule as an antagonist of α_1-adrenoceptor activity comprising determining the effect of said molecule on the binding of a ligand to an α_1-adrenoceptor in a receptor binding assay and comparing the effect of said molecule with the effect of a ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 in the same receptor binding assay.

9. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding a complementary to a sequence encoding a ρ-conotoxin peptide according to any one of claims 1 to 7.

10. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid probe comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding all or part of a ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1.

11. (Withdrawn) A monoclonal or polyclonal antibody to a ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1.

12. (Withdrawn) A genetic construct comprising a vector portion and a nucleic acid capable of encoding a ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1.

13. (Currently amended) A ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 which is a chimeric peptide comprising a segment ~~or sequence~~ of a naturally occurring ρ-conotoxin peptide and a segment ~~or sequence~~ of another biologically active peptide or protein, such that the ~~resultant ρ-conotoxin~~ chimeric peptide possesses an activity ~~associated with~~ of said other peptide or protein.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of prophylaxis of urinary or cardiovascular conditions or diseases or mood disorders, or for the treatment or control of pain or inflammation including the step of administering to a mammal an effective amount of the isolated, synthetic or recombinant ρ-conotoxin peptide of claim 1.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 14 wherein the disease or condition of the urinary system is prostatic hyperplasia or a related disorder.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 14 wherein the cardiovascular disease or condition is an arrhythmia, hypertension or coronary heart failure.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 14 wherein the mood disorder is a craving.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 14 wherein the pain is chronic pain, neuropathic pain or inflammatory pain.

19. (Currently amended) A composition comprising an ~~isolate~~ isolated, synthetic or recombinant ρ-conotoxin peptide having selective α_1-adrenoceptor antagonist activity, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, whereby the ability of said peptide to inhibit the action of nor-adrenaline at an α_1–adrenoceptor is greater than its ability to inhibit the action of nor-adrenaline at other α-adrenoceptors.

20. (Original) A composition according to claim 19 which is a pharmaceutical composition.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of urinary or cardiovascular conditions or diseases, or mood disorders, or for the treatment or control of pain or inflammation comprising making the medicament by employing the ρ-conotoxin peptide of claim 1.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting the activity of an α_1-adrenoceptor comprising employing a ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions in respect of which selective antagonism of α_1-adrenoceptors is associated with effective treatment or prophylaxis, including the step of administering an effective amount of a ρ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1.

24. (New) A composition according to claim 19 whereby said peptide has selective activity for one α_1–adrenoceptor subtype over other subtypes of α_1–adrenoceptors.